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1-11-97

HAROLD WEISBERG
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Dear Hal:

Thanks for writing and asking about how I've managed through the recent big storm.

Actually, the storm didn't affect my area in the way it hit other areas of California. There was a plentiful supply of rain but it never entered my apartment at all & caused no damage. I appreciate your concern.

I note also your concern about Bill Mills. I just heard from him (he sent me reports on witnesses which he was generous enough to send me) & he mentioned nothing about the storm affecting him but I doubt that it did. You may hear from him about this.

Now to get to some other points or queries raised in your most recent letter to me.

You asked about whether I had any items on Groden-Simpson & the answer is - yes - I do & the enclosed will answer your query. It is quite

substantial. The newspaper articles are all I have but the xerox copies of the Dave Lifton commentary (34 pages in all) & the "Pathfinder Personal Edition" of the Simpson trial which includes Groden's testimony is the more interesting. Both the Lifton & the Groden testimony were supplied me by an excellent researcher (who, incidentally, came to my defense when I attacked Mantik & Fetzer for their claims at the recent Dallas Lancer conference that the Z-film was altered). In fact this researcher is writing a scientific reply to Mantik's hypothesis which he hopes to get published in the Fourth Decade. I suggested he also put it in the British journal ("The Daily Mail Echo"). When it appears I'll send you copies.

Lifton's vendetta against Groden comes crystal clear in his 34 page ~~attack~~ diatribe. It appears that the prosecution must've used Lifton's sources (such as copies of contracts) to accomplish what he's done. But now it is on record & Lifton can't claim it isn't public knowledge.

I thought the enclosed National Enquirer article on Groden was foolishly slanderous (but knowing the reputation of that paper they probably figured to get away with slandering Groden because they felt or knew he wouldn't sue them (too much money to raise).

The whole episode (trial & newspaper accounts) smack of a comic opera that not even fiction could create. (Can anyone top *real life*??!).

You asked about Gary Aguilar & why he hadn't written. Most likely because he's moved. (He's moved twice & this may well be the reason). I saw him recently & we had dinner together. He had asked me to loan my copy of your book "Whitewash III" (on the Secret Transcripts). He may be writing something on this but I don't know. Incidentally, when we had dinner together the La Fontaine book came up. Apparently he ~~did~~ puts faith in them & as you well know you & I don't. I think Gary places his faith because he simply is unaware of the hard evidence we know of & the *utter lack* of it possessed by the La Fontaines. It is as simple as that. I had no time to discuss with him the inconsistencies so Gary left *believing* their fiction.

I thought you'd be interested in a statement made by the Acting Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Dallas office (letter dated 12/26/96 to a writer - not myself). He states - "As you are well aware, we continue to accept and investigate all credible information concerning the assassination of President Kennedy."

I should mention that the letter is co-signed by ~~W. Gram~~ Wilbur M. Gregory, Jr., Chief Division Counsel,

I don't know these FBI names but I should note their use of the word "credible". Since I know what kind of information the letter writer provided (at least to do with alteration of the Z-film) you can imagine what their "follow-up" consisted of. Believe me this writer's hypothesis is absurd enough & he even take the position of a shot being fired at JFK by S.S. agent Hickey! (with "evidence" such as this who needs a Review Board??!).

You asked about my thoughts on why Evica has yet to publish your article on the La Fontaines. I can't say for sure but since Evica's wide & far-reaching conspiratorial hypothesis may not include the La Fontaine's version of conspiracy, perhaps, this is why Lob held it up. Otherwise I can't understand his reasons. Evica's claims have to be read to be believed—he is that far out & may even have gone further than even Livingstone! Since Evica & Lifton controlled the Lancer conference in Dallas it is difficult to say where fantasy ended & reality began (if indeed, reality, was ever in the picture to begin with. I have my great doubts).

By the way in going over the National Enquirer article I note the writer's comment that Groden came up with the idea of the JFK body being altered when, in fact, that this Lifton's "gem". Can you

imagine that "crockpot" Groden denying in a court of law that this "body alteration" theory isn't Groden's invention but Lifton's & what would Lifton say of this Enquirer article? "Hey, they're stealing my theory & putting it in that "crockpot's" scenario." What can the average reader say of this (according to an ad in this ~~issue~~ very issue that paper reaches 18 million readers)!?!

One last item I'd like to request before I close this letter. In one of the letters you sent me, on the back page of it, there was a comment by Senator Richard Russell which apparently is a quote he made to LBJ. The quote is: "A man good enough shot to put two bullets right in Kennedy, he didn't miss that whole automobile."

Can you provide the origin of this quote. It sounds like it could be in the transcript of the discussion held between LBJ & Russell apparently conducted via phone but I'm not sure. I'd like to use this for my own work.

Thanks again for your help.

Best,
Hal Verb